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MEDIA ADVISORY

AUDIT OF CSU SPENDING PRACTICES TO BE RELEASED NEXT WEEK

-- State Auditor to Release Report on CSU Executive Pay & Perks, Including Controversial Six-Figure "Transition Pay" and "Special Assignment" Deals --

The complete report will be posted at 10 am on Tuesday Nov. 6 at <http://www.bsa.ca.gov/bsa/>

SACRAMENTO – Next Tuesday at 10 a.m., the California State Auditor will release its analysis of the California State University's controversial executive pay and benefits policies. Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez called for the audit in July 2006 after the San Francisco Chronicle reported the CSU had handed out over \$4 million to departing executives over the previous 10 years for doing little to no work. The report was requested by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee (JLAC) of the state legislature.

While the CSU Administration was handing out six-figure "transition pay" and "consulting assignment" deals to departing executives, student fees doubled, causing state university students to graduate with more debt than ever. Yet, the university's Administration failed to wage a fight for enough state funding for the CSU, which has led to cuts in classes, increased class sizes, and curriculum curtailment.

"CSU faculty and students know exactly how the Administration's decisions are affecting the quality of education in the classroom," said John Travis, California Faculty Association political action chair, and a political science professor at Humboldt State U. "Students are not able to get the classes they need, class sizes are ballooning, resources are dwindling, and students are falling into deeper debt than we've ever seen.

"Yet, these setbacks to student instruction has not been the center of our CSU leaders public concerns. The CSU Administration's greatest passion has been hiking the pay of executives and sneaking in sweetheart deals for former executives to the tune of millions of dollars. This is precious CSU money that is badly needed in an under-funded public university.

"We look forward to seeing the state audit. We hope it will provide another reminder for the public and the Legislature that greater oversight and support is needed to make sure California's public education system, which has been so successful, gets back its focus on instruction.

“Our state university is often taken for granted by the politicians that oversee and fund the system. Let’s clear out the waste, fraud, and abuse of taxpayer dollars by the CSU Administration and refocus on rebuilding the best public higher education system in the country.”

For background on the state audit and the CSU executive pay controversy, go to: <http://www.calfac.org/execcomp.html> or contact Alice Sunshine at 510.384.1967.

The complete audit report of “CSU Executives—Compensation” is scheduled to be posted on the State Auditor’s web site at 10 am on Tuesday Nov. 2 at <http://www.bsa.ca.gov/bsa/>

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